

WORSHIP SERVICE
November 22, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

LEADER: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

PEOPLE: **We know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we are his;
we are God's people, the sheep of his pasture.**

LEADER: Come, you thankful people, come. Give thanks and praise God's name.

PEOPLE: **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness
continues through all generations.**

PRAYER

HYMN # 721 Come, You Thankful People, Come
Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home,
All is safely gathered in 'ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joys or sorrows grown.
First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we- wholesome grain and pure may be.

HYMN # 723 For the Fruit of All Creation
For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For His gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping;
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing;
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that surround us, for the truths that still confound us;
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

GIVING OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

THANKSGIVING DURING A PANDEMIC

Lord, this has been a difficult year, with a pandemic, thousands of deaths, economic meltdowns, huge unemployment, social isolation, injustice on many fronts, hurricanes, horrendous fires, a bitter election that has broken friends and families, and more. We wouldn't wish this year on anyone, Lord.
Yet during this pandemic... we pause to consider what we **are** thankful for:

Thank you for life, for bringing us this far, for being with us through it all.

Thank you, Lord.

Thank you for those who have sacrificed to help others, who have worked long hours so that we could have the things we need, so the ill could be cared for, so the dying were not alone.

Thank you, Lord.

God of gifts, thank you for your provision; the earth has yielded up its bounty, thank you that we have plenty, even if we have to stand in line for it, and that we have enough to share with those who wonder about their next meal.

Thank you, Lord.

God of creation, thank you for the fall season that still delights- the taste of crisp apples, the sound of geese honking their way south, the colors that delight our eyes.

Thank you, Lord.

God of healing, thank you for all the ways you have brought healing this year- of bodies, relationships, minds, and spirits. Thank you also the promise of vaccines, help us to get them quickly to people here and around the world.

Help us, Lord.

God of mercy, help us to be peacemakers, forgive us when we are irritated or judgmental of the choices others make. Give us patience as we wash our hands for the millionth time, as we mask up, and make hard choices about being apart.

Help us, Lord.

Lord, as our hearts turn toward Christmas, the world is waiting for an angelic message of good tidings of joy for all people. We are waiting for you to be born again in this pandemic year, born again in our hearts, in our world. We know you are coming, and so on this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we pray with deep gratitude.

Thank you, Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN # Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying; send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4: 4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION Nevertheless Praise

HYMN # Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now, I will say that I am strong, I will say that I am rich,

Because of what the Lord has done for me.

Give thanks. Give thanks. Give thanks

BENEDICTION